

City of Socorro

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Volume 1, No. 4

April 2008

New City Councilors Target Special Projects

On Tuesday, March 4, Socorro voters went to the polls and declared it was time for a change. Four new councilors were elected.

“We usually have one new councilor, but this time—four!” acknowledged City Clerk Pat Salome.

They’ve been sworn in, they’ve gotten a taste of what it is like to sit in the big chairs in the Council Chambers, and they’re all ready to dive in and get to work. When asked in phone interviews what plans and projects they wanted to work on, they each had their own ideas:

Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez

I want to see the soccer fields and convention center completed and help develop a youth center. I’d like to see more training for our police officers. We need to resolve the issue of the drop zone. We need to work on sewer extensions, especially on the east side of town. I know it costs money, but those people have been residents of Socorro for a long time, and they vote, and we need to do this.

Toby Jaramillo

The best thing is for all of the council members to work as a team, to do what we need to do, listen to the citizens, be open and honest and share with each other to get things done.

We should treat all citizens the same, do the best we can and be honest with our citizens. I talk to people and tourists all the time and they compliment our town. One thing we can accomplish is getting together to clean up our yards and our town: to be proud of what we have and where we are. Let’s work together to accomplish this.

Michael Olguin, Jr.

I’m real excited about being on the City Council. Going to my first Council meeting made me realize there’s a lot of stuff I have to get acquainted with, not only issues, but processes. Once I get my feet wet it will give me a good idea of where I can be most effective. I think right now, we’re forming a Park and Recreation Committee. It was part of my platform to start and develop some programs for our youth. It’s a new committee—we’ll be working on the new rodeo arena, soccer fields and convention center.

Peter Romero

One of the main issues I want to get into is wage and benefits to city employees, to make sure everything is fair as far as hiring practices go. I want continued improvements in city services. I’d like to see a little more open government and for it to be more welcoming to newcomers into politics and policies of city government. I’m going to work for any improvements that will help the city with its added growth. I’d also like to see the City Council move away from, I call it, the “bobble-head mentality” that the previous councils have had.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: Celebrating Earth Day in Socorro

Whether it's under the title of Transportation Director, Keep Socorro Beautiful Coordinator or Socorro Tourism Director, Deborah Dean is at work promoting Socorro. This month she and her staff, Rosemary Rosas and Gloria Gutierrez, are inviting everyone in Socorro to celebrate Earth Day by cleaning up the community.

The celebration begins Tuesday, April 22, from 3:00 to 7:00 pm at the plaza.

"We're inviting people to stop by the plaza and make a pledge to be a part of our Keep Socorro Beautiful Campaign," said Deborah Dean, Tourism Director and Coordinator of the Keep Socorro Beautiful program. "Taking the pledge" means using cloth bags at the grocery store instead of plastic ones, refilling a personal water bottle instead of buying water in disposable bottles, and shopping Socorro first, before filling the gas tank to drive to Albuquerque.

"There will be food, music, and arts and crafts projects for the kids. This is where people can learn how to compost, learn what new recycling efforts the City is making (save your newspapers and cans!), but most importantly people will learn what they can do to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle," said Dean.

Later that week, the city is sponsoring The Great American Cleanup. Nonprofit and service organizations wishing to clean up Socorro (and make a little money), may sign up at the Socorro Heritage and Visitor Center, located across from the main fire station. Volunteers will be served breakfast, and then sent out to pick up trash at designated areas throughout the city. Funding for this event is made possible by the New Mexico Clean and Beautiful grant and by the Socorro City Council.



Deborah Dean and Gloria Gutierrez restock the kits each cleanup group receives. The kits include such items as safety vests, sunscreen, and trash bags.

Employment Anniversaries

5 Years

Roque Fernandez
Jaime Hidalgo
Wesley Mauldin

10 Years

Angel Isaac

City Council

Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez	Gordy Hicks
Toby Jaramillo	Donald Monette
Michael Olguin, Jr.	Ernest Pargas, Jr.
Peter Romero	Chuck Zimmerly
Ravi Bhasker, Mayor	
Pat Salome, City Clerk	